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Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 162

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CONTENTS

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

- Fresh Water Breakthrough by Desalination
(PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS, 25 May 81) 1

- Briefs
Lusophone Countries' Meeting 3
Finnish-Soviet Fishing Pact 3

ASIA

AUSTRALIA

- Briefs
Solomon Islands Seabed Study Program 4

INDIA

- Delhi Approves Scheme To Expand Fishing Fleet
(G. K. Pandey; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 26 May 81) 5

- Briefs
Bay of Bengal Mackerel 6

MALAYSIA

- Greater U.S. Flexibility on Law of Sea Called For
(BUSINESS TIMES, 16 Apr 81) 7

NEW ZEALAND

Reportage on Commercial Fishermen Federation Conference (Various sources, various dates)	8
---	---

Russian Competition Resented
Fisheries Minister's Message
Auckland 'HERALD' Comment, Editorial
Japanese Market Promising
Depleted Resources Feared
Labor Party Pledges Boost
Government Policy Criticized
Tough Measures Called For

Briefs

Below-Quota Fish Catches	14
Polish Research Ship	14
Polish Fishing Queried	14
Phosphorite Survey	15

SRI LANKA

Plans To Clean Up East Asian Seas (Donatus de Silva; THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS, 4 Jun 81)	16
--	----

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SEYCHELLES

Regional Seminar on Fishing Problems Inaugurated (NATION, 12 May 81)	18
Fishing Agreement With France Explained (NATION, 14 May 81)	20

WEST EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Iceland Disputes With EEC Over Greenland Waters Quotas (NEWS FROM ICELAND, Jun 81)	21
Iceland Coast Guard Forces Belgian Trawlers From Waters (NEWS FROM ICELAND, Jun 81)	23
Dutch Ships Illegally Fish in FRG's North Sea Zone (FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, 22 May 81)	24

ICELAND

Briefs

Marine Institute Fishery Recommendations	26
Capelin Data Reported	26
Minke Whale Quota	26

FRESH WATER BREAKTHROUGH BY DESALINATION

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 25 May 81 p 26

[Text]

UNLIMITED SUPPLIES of fresh water from the sea will be a possibility even for the poorest of the world's developing nations in the next decade or even earlier.

Reporting on the latest desalination technology, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) said the process has "now reached the threshold of economic feasibility on a gigantic scale."

It said a cost-effective process, called "reverse-osmosis," has resulted in the building or planning of new desalination plants in the Americas and the Middle East.

The process is one borrowed from nature, specially the method used by fish and plants in utilizing nutrients found in water, FAO reported.

The system "reverses the usual tendency of liquids filtering through a membrane — as in the case of plants taking up nutrients from the soil — to flow from a dilute solution on the one side to a concentrated one on the other."

Such a method has enabled water engineers, in the past decade and a half, to devise man-made membranes

and engineering techniques which cut the energy input of desalination plants by at least half.

"Modern water treatment plants deploy man-made materials for filters, including millions of hair-thin tubes. The seawater molecules are forced through these at pressures of hundreds of kilograms per cubic centimeter. The dissolved solids in the water, including the salts, are simply left behind," said FAO by way of further describing the new process.

However, FAO stressed that cost of such plants presently is prohibitive. Initial capital investment called for is heavy or only within means of some countries in North America and the Middle East.

Operating costs of the latest desalination plants compute at \$4 per every 1,000 gallons of seawater converted, clearly not within means of the developing nations, according to FAO.

Such costs limit present scope of the reverse-osmosis process "to the needs of the profitable agro-industries in the big cities of the rich world," FAO said.

Development of the process has been rapid. As the UN agency sees it, means will soon be found to lower the investment costs involved and that water engineers of the Third World, once they become familiar with the technology, could introduce their own innovations with use of local materials to further reduce the costs.

Water treatment plants adopting the reverse-osmosis technique are currently being installed in several cities in the Middle East, Europe and the United States, FAO said.

Algeria is building one to service a paper mill aside from making clean water available to several farming communities. The Soviet Union has started construction of a plant on the Caspian Sea as part of an energy complex while Venezuela is also setting up an energy-related plant.

In the United States, FAO said several plants are in the planning stages to function mainly for agricultural purposes (irrigation) and environment modification.

One plant slated for construction in California will process waste water by removing trace metals which still remain after conventional sewage treatment. The state of Arizona will set up a plant to control salinity of its main water source, the lower Colorado River.

FAO said development of the reverse-osmosis process is timely since the 1980's has been declared by the UN as International Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The observance is intended to radically transform lives of millions of people who presently do not have access to safe water. — *DEPTHNews*

CSO: 5200/4918

BRIEFS

LUSOPHONE COUNTRIES' MEETING--Praia, 30 May--The first official delegation from Guinea-Bissau to visit Cape Verde following the 14 November coup d'etat arrived today in Praia, where it will participate in a conference on the Law of the Sea. All Lusophone countries of Africa are represented at this meeting in addition to Brazil and Portugal. The objective of the meeting is to prepare a common text over the Law of the Sea to be presented to the UN conference in Geneva. The text will be presented in Portuguese. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 31 May 81 p 10]

FINNISH-SOVIET FISHING PACT--Next month negotiations will be initiated between Finland and the Soviet Union regarding a new fishing pact which would replace the current pact from 1976. The negotiations will take place in Helsinki on 23 to 26 June upon the initiative of Finland. The current Fishing Pact is in effect until the end of this year. In order for Soviet fishing to continue with the extended fishing zone of Finland thereafter, a new fishing pact is needed. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs says that the intention is to prepare a reciprocal border pact, which would be supplemented by special quota negotiations each year to confirm the fishing quotas of both states. The model for this is the fishing pact between Sweden and the Soviet Union. Vice chairman Eero Kekomaki of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is the leader of the Finnish delegation in the negotiations that are beginning. [Text] [Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 26 May 81 p 11] 9662

CSO: 5200/3091

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

SOLOMON ISLANDS SEABED STUDY PROGRAM--Australia is to study the seabed around the Solomon Islands with technical help from the United States and New Zealand. Australia's acting minister for foreign affairs, Mr MacKellar, announced today that the Federal Government would participate in a geo-scientific research program in the South Pacific with America and New Zealand. Mr MacKellar said that because of the limited land resources of most of the Pacific island countries, their governments placed considerable importance on the exploration of their 200-mile zones. The acting foreign minister said that Australia lacked the capacity to undertake extensive seabed research. Because of this it had consulted the United States and New Zealand about mounting a joint project. However, he said, Australia would carry out hydrographic work with its own resources. [Text] [SB121025 Melbourne Overseas in English 0830 GFT 12 Jun 81]

CSO: 5200

DELHI APPROVES SCHEME TO EXPAND FISHING FLEET

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 May 81 p 9

[Article by G. K. Pandey]

[Text]

By G. K. PANDEY

NEW DELHI, May 25

A STRONG fleet of fishing vessels is being sought to be developed to increase this country's catch of fish and other marine resources.

A comprehensive scheme recently approved by the government envisages chartering of vessels from foreign countries, selective imports of trawlers and acquisition of vessels from indigenous shipyards. It is proposed to increase the existing number of 57 large vessels to 350 by 1983-84.

The scheme for disbursement of short-term loans through the Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) has been revived and Rs. 5.75 crores made available for this purpose. The government has also approved a scheme for 33 per cent subsidy on indigenously built trawlers.

According to indications available from official circles here, additional funds will be made available during the current year for acquiring or chartering additional vessels.

Augmenting of shipping vessels is contemplated, apparently in view of the enormous export potential for marine products and the increased domestic requirement. Of a total biological potential of 4.5 million tonnes, the country is currently producing merely 1.6 million tonnes of fish. In other words, the production could be stepped up by 300 per cent.

During 1980-81, the country earned Rs. 260 crores of foreign exchange through export of fish.

Major increases in marine output will be possible through large vessels only. Currently, traditional craft account for 67 per cent of the catch

while mechanised boats provide the other 32 per cent. Large vessels provide for only one per cent of the total production. There is thus tremendous scope for inducting large vessels for increasing production, it is stated.

Apart from increasing the number of large vessels, the government is also giving a thought to the economic viability of fishing. On account of sharp increase in the prices of diesel, which constitutes a major cost input, a sagging trend has been discernible in the marine output. Though the price of fish has also gone up, the increase is not in proportion to the cost of other inputs.

With the declaration of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone a large area of the sea, almost equal to two-thirds of the land area, has come under the national jurisdiction. Special efforts are, therefore, being made to increase the harvest from the sea.

Inquiries in official circles show that recently Goa and Kerala have enacted statutes to regulate fishing in territorial waters. Orissa and some other states are in the process of enacting similar laws.

The Central government has also introduced a measure in Parliament to prevent poaching by foreign vessels in the exclusive economic zone. The bill before Parliament provides for confiscation of vessels poaching in one economic zone.

The main thrust during the sixth plan is on production of fish seed. Special emphasis is also being given to the inland fisheries project, including the project with World Bank assistance where 27 large hatcheries are proposed to be established in five states, each having a separate corporation for the purpose.

INDIA

BRIEFS

BAY OF BENGAL MACKEREL--Visakhapatnam, May 22--Shoals of mackerel have been found off the Kalingapatnam-Puri coast in the Bay of Bengal by the marine fisheries exploratory project wing of the Union agriculture ministry. Rough estimates indicate a catch of 1,500 tonnes of mackerel in one square mile in the area. In the Bay of Bengal, shoals of mackerel were detected at a depth of 80 metres and 40 kilometres off the shore, unlike their availability close to the west coast. The fish variety constituted 10 to 12 per cent of the annual marine fish catch of about 1.8 million tonnes in the country. It cost Rs. 3,000 a tonne and has a good market in West Asia. Further survey is being carried out by scientists of the exploratory wing aboard the trawler, "Mataya Shikari," in the Bay of Bengal. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 May 81 p 8]

CSO: 5200/7053

GREATER U.S. FLEXIBILITY ON LAW OF SEA CALLED FOR

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 16 Apr 81 p 10

(Text)

MALAYSIA, like other developing countries, is disappointed with the Reagan Administration's decision to review the draft treaty on the law of the sea.

Speaking to reporters, the leader of the Malaysian delegation to the law of the sea conference, Datuk Abdullah Abdul Rahman, expressed the hope that the Americans would be more flexible and reasonable in their attitude so that the treaty could be signed and ratified as soon as possible.

Datuk Abdullah, who is also the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said the American decision took everyone by surprise because of the general expectation that this tenth session would be the last before the convention was signed.

He urged the Americans to take into consideration the fact that a broad consensus had been reached on several issues including those relating to the exploration and exploitation of the deep sea-bed, the exclusive economic zone, the right of access to and from the high seas, the right of transit, the limits

of the territorial sea, control of pollution, protection and preservation of the marine environment and the transfer of technology in deep sea-bed mining as well as the concept of the continental shelf.

He said agreement on these issues was reached as a result of compromises worked out during seven years of hard bargaining between industrial and developing countries.

In view of the generally accepted notion that the deep sea-bed is the "common heritage of mankind," Datuk Abdullah said that understanding and cooperation among both industrial and developing countries was vital in order to ensure that all nations obtain equal benefit from the resources of the deep sea-bed.

Initial reports suggest that the deep sea-bed may yield substantial amounts of nodules rich in manganese, cobalt, nickel and copper.

The tenth session, which was attended by 150 countries, began in New York on Mar 9 this year and is scheduled to end on April 24.

REPORTAGE ON COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FEDERATION CONFERENCE

Russian Competition Resented

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 23 May 81 p 3

/Text/ There is growing pressure from New Zealand fishermen for the removal of Russian trawlers from New Zealand waters. The issue will be debated this week at a national fishermen's conference.

There are now about 20 Russian trawlers working these waters, either licensed to fish on their own account or in joint ventures with New Zealand companies and the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen alleges they land about 70 per cent of the trawl-caught fin fish catch.

The federation annual conference will debate the matter in Auckland, according to its liaison officer, Mr Ian McWhannell.

One of the key remits calls for an end to Russian joint-venture fishing because some fishermen believe this activity hinders the expansion of New Zealand's own fishing industry," he said.

Cheap Labour

Delegates from about 20 New Zealand fishing organisations are expected to attend. Two Russian Embassy representatives concerned with fishing will also be present.

Mr McWhannell said there were many aspects of Russian fishing that were of concern to local fishermen. One was the use of cheap foreign labour in preference to local

And in this age of electronic warfare, the Russians could use fishing boats to survey inversion layers in the ocean. Nuclear submarines could remain undetected beneath such layers, Mr McWhannell said.

He was also uneasy that the Russian trawlers seemed to carry twice as many crew members as equivalent-sized Japanese trawlers.

Mr McWhannell said the Australian fishing industry was also concerned at the amount of Russian-caught fish from New Zealand waters which was finding its way to the Australian market. Complaints could be expected—if not a call for a ban.

The Soviet Union has three major joint ventures with local companies: the Fletcher Challenge Group, Sanford Ltd, and Amalgamated Marketing Ltd.

While it was not stated by Mr Whannell, these joint ventures provide new fish processing work ashore in New Zealand. The ventures were originally authorised as a way of enabling New Zealand companies to gradually become involved in commercial fishing because they lacked cash and equipment.

Guarantees

There are already indications that some companies now want to fish the deep waters on their own account.

Sanford Ltd's general manager, Mr David Anderson, told New Zealand Shore Fishermen at their conference they would soon have to make decisions about manning deepwater boats if New Zealand fishermen wanted companies to risk major investments in suitable trawlers.

This company also said, on another occasion, that some sort of Government guarantees against financial losses would be necessary before any New Zealand company would risk deep water ventures.

Last week, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr MacIntyre, said joint fishing vessels took 82,726 tonnes of fin-fish during the year to March 31 while foreign licensed vessels caught a further 43,322 tonnes.

No breakdown was given of the joint-venture catch on a nationality basis, but of the foreign licensed fleets, Japan had the largest catch with 29,337 tonnes, followed by Russia with 15,178 tonnes and South Korea with 617 tonnes.

Fisheries Minister's Message

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 May 81 p 16

[Text] New Zealand fishermen will have to live with Russian and other foreign joint ventures until they prove they are able to take over deep-water fishing.

The Government has called upon local fishermen to come forward with ideas on how they can take over before all joint ventures are reviewed next year.

That was the essence of a message yesterday from the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr MacIntyre, to delegates at the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen's conference at Auckland.

Russian joint trawl ventures, in particular, had been singled out by many New Zealand fishermen because it was claimed they did not have to meet the normal commercial criteria and could merely "throw the balance-sheet out of the window," according to one federation delegate.

The delegate challenged Mr MacIntyre to state under what criteria the Russian boats were allowed to fish.

In answer to this, and earlier criticisms of Russian fishing by the federation's liaison officer, Mr Ian McWhannell, Mr MacIntyre said New Zealand had obligations under the Law of the Sea Conference to allow traditional foreign fishing nations access to grounds not capable of being worked by New Zealand craft.

Mr MacIntyre also said the success of joint ventures was a matter of negotiation and not of dictation by New Zealand.

He pointed out that New Zealand depended on many of these countries for markets not only for fish but for other products.

As a meat customer, Russia took a lot of old ewes which could otherwise be useless to farmers and was New Zealand's second largest wool buyer, he pointed out.

The Government, he said, was looking at United States regulations which was being prepared with the aim of guaranteeing export markets to the countries licensed to fish in American waters.

The Government was also investigating claims that Russian fish was being exported to Egypt in competition with New Zealand fish.

There were many ways in which New Zealand fishermen could progressively take over from joint-venture boats in New Zealand waters.

These ranged from the gradual crewing of boats to completely crewing a boat at a time, and Mr MacIntyre wanted answers on how this should be done before all foreign joint ventures were reviewed next year by the Government.

'Squawking'

Mr MacIntyre sniped at fishermen who spoke out individually on issues and described them as "squawking seagulls." He told the federation that fishermen had to learn to speak with one voice, otherwise people might stop listening to them.

The general manager of the Fishing Industry Board, Mr N. E. Jarman, said an almost "negligible rate of New Zealand activity on the catching side of the industry was a worry."

He said that this was an area where the present economics of fishing were unfavourable and the purchasing and operating of such boats solely by New Zealanders at this time could well be an economic disaster.

"In many other areas joint ventures have benefited New Zealand and the industry—in particular considering the amount of fish being landed for further processing. In other cases the marketing

strategies adopted by the joint-venture companies have been and will increasingly be beneficial to the whole industry."

Running Risk

He said that while local fishermen had every right to be concerned about certain aspects of joint ventures and where they were going, New Zealand fishermen were running the risk of blaming the foreigners for problems which generally they had not caused.

"Our biggest individual problem as an industry is an economic one," he said.

"You, the fishermen, are not earning enough."

That, he explained, was the result of high fuel prices, inflation and market conditions.

Some of the difficulties would remain even if joint ventures turned to New Zealand operations overnight.

"I do not believe that joint ventures have done much harm to the domestic industry up to now. What we must be concerned about are more future fears rather than present realities," he said.

NZ Crews

The president of the federation, Mr T. Collins, said that joint-venture boats must in the not-too-distant future be manned by New Zealand crews, and that meant Russian vessels also.

Mr Collins said that New Zealand crews would work in these boats, spend long periods at sea and accept the conditions on board. They were competent enough to man them successfully.

Auckland 'HERALD' Comment

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 May 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Fish-hooks in Joint Ventures"]

[Text]

All fishing joint ventures in which New Zealand is involved are to be reviewed next year. Conscious of mounting criticism within the local industry, the Government has invited New Zealand fishermen to advance ideas on how they can take over from foreign interests.

Hostility towards joint ventures is understandable enough when, for instance, foreign boats fishing in our waters can undercut our own companies for export markets. It might be less manifest if such arrangements provided significantly more jobs for New Zealand fishermen, but they do not—although they have created employment in shore-based processing.

For all the antagonism to-

wards them, New Zealand still needs fishing joint ventures—for the equipment, for what we can still learn from foreign partners, further to enlarge our processing industry, and, as Mr MacIntyre has pointed out, to facilitate access to partner states for some of our other exports.

Experience was bound to reveal weaknesses in joint ventures, which are, after all, a fairly recent development in the New Zealand fishing industry. But if agreements cannot be improved to our satisfaction, they need not be renewed. It is now up to the Government and the industry to work out ways to ensure that New Zealand is not left holding the light end of the net.

Japanese Market Promising

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 May 81 p 16

[Text]

Massive lay ups of Japanese squid and tuna boats are planned and there could be a major rub off for New Zealand fishermen.

The chairman of the Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority Mr R. Alan Kay, told the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen yesterday that Japan's Tuna Federation was seeking a 20 per cent cut in the size of its tuna fleet.

Mr MacKay came straight to Auckland after visiting Japan to look at the state of the Japanese fishing industry.

He said the Tuna Federation had proposed a scheme to bring about the fleet reduction.

The problems arose because of a big increase in fuel costs, a very depressed tuna market and the difficulty of getting Japanese crews to go to sea for very long periods.

Squidships

He said Japanese squid fishing was "in a hell of a mess".

The Japanese Government had set up a cartel to manage squid stockpiles in storage as the squid would be released for sale gradually.

Whereas squid was selling

for \$2 a kilogram about three years ago in Japan, it was now selling for 70c to 80c.

The Japanese Government was providing assistance to squid fishermen but from \$30 to \$50 squid boat owners were expected to go bankrupt.

Squid fishermen had formed joint ventures in Canada, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand but they were still faced with a major problem, he said.

New Zealand fishermen have been moving into both squid and tuna fishing.

Facilities

Next month a freezer vessel will arrive on the

West Coast of the South Island to take on board New Zealand catches of southern bluefin tuna.

The chairman of the Fishing Industry Board, Mr Mark Hinchiff, said one of the most exciting developments in New Zealand at present was the West Coast southern bluefin tuna fishery.

As a result about 100 New Zealand fishermen had been trained in the exacting process of preparing bluefin tuna for the Japanese market.

The Minister of Fisheries, Mr MacIntyre, said New Zealand fishermen should adopt the more effective method of pole and line fishing for bluefin, using live bait rather than trolling for it.

Depleted Resources Feared

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 28 May 81 p 16

[Text] New Zealand fishermen are concerned that the country's deep water resources may be heavily depleted by the time they are able to take over from foreign boats.

Heavy foreign fishing over the Chatham Rise and Puysegur Banks in particular has the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen worried.

Their concern is matched by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr MacIntyre, who said the federation has ministry was checking out the reports.

The president of the federation, Mr E. L. Collins, said: "I must sound a warning in regard to our ling fishery, that it is certainly not as lucrative as it may seem to management people."

Where Now?

Certainly the ling fishery is extensive but it will not stand hard and consistent fishing. Foreign licensed and joint-venture boats have had some very good catches

on the Chatham Rise and even the Puysegur Bank, another area where ling has been taken on the West Coast.

"Where are all of these vessels now?" he asked.

Mr Collins said the ministry had indicated there had been only one Korean long-liner there during the past year.

"We know what happened to the Noel H. Rudain (a New Zealand boat) and its efforts to get established as a long-liner. It is my guess that these vessels have had easy pickings and have moved on until the resource recovers. I indeed this ever happens."

After strong representations we were able to get Tasman Bay closed to foreign and joint-venture squid fishing. This has had quite a significant effect on the local

fleet's catches and I am sure it is only the poor market price for squid which has stopped more local boats from participating in this fishery."

Pot Limit

He said the damage had already been done to the hake fishery on the West Coast and local fishermen had been left with the problem.

Mr Collins suggested the ministry consider imposing a pot limit on rock lobster fishermen, in addition to existing controls, as that had proved a most effective means of controlling catches in Australia.

He also called for a moratorium on paua licences to help conserve that fishery and said fishermen must

press for better management of that resource.

The chairman of the Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority, Mr R. MacKay, told the federation Tasmania was well advanced in the development of abalone and scallop farming. Paua is a type of abalone.

The Social Credit spokesman on fishing, Mr David Howes, said part of the deep-water problem was due to the fact that New Zealand was initially dependent on foreign estimates of this country's resource when the 200-mile zone was created.

He said they had been over generous in their estimates in order to get larger catch quotas and there was a need for a greater fisheries research effort by New Zealand.

Labor Party Pledges Boost

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 22 May 81 p 4

[Text] A major boost to the fishing industry, giving New Zealand a much greater stake in the development of its in-shore and off-shore fishing zones, was pledged last night by Labour's shadow minister of primary industries, Sir Basil Arthur.

Sir Basil said, in a supplied statement, that while the fishing industry was growing and developing it was facing major problems.

In-shore fishery was over-capitalised, over-manned and over-fished, and inflation and fuel costs were wrecking profitability.

An allocation of joint-venture licences was sometimes cutting directly across the diversification and marketing of the New Zealand industry. Smaller operators were being pushed to the wall.

Because the economic cake was not elastic, Labour could not offer the industry as much as they would like to, Sir Basil said.

However, he believed that Labour's policy was practical and would give the industry a sound base as an economic and recreational resource.

A Labour government would designate fishing a front line industry, making fishing ventures eligible for concessional finance from the Rural Bank, the Development Finance Corpo-

ration and the Export Import Corporation.

Encouragement would be given to efficient small-boat operators to ensure that a balance was kept in the industry. This could include finance for suitable vessels.

Investment allowances would be reviewed with a view to removing anomalies such as the exclusion of first-entry second hand vessels from the 40 percent investment allowance.

On the question of the 200-mile fishing zone, Sir Basil said Labour would im-

prove management and policing of the zone ensuring that New Zealand interests came first.

Long-term forward planning would ensure that New Zealand gained greater control of the resources. There would also be strict criteria for the granting fishing rights in the zone, and encouragement for fishermen to process their fish on shore.

Sir Basil said nations given fishing rights in the zone should make a contribution to the development of New

Zealand's industry and there should be freer market access for our fish and other products.

Labour would continue to support joint fishing ventures as long as they were in New Zealand's interests.

Granting licences for joint ventures would be pub-

lished and the local industry would be given the right to object.

Joint venture criteria would be continually reassessed and joint venture fish would not be marketed in unfair competition with New Zealand caught fish.

A lack of investment in research was hampering the exploitation of the fishing industry, Sir Basil said.

Additional funding would be made available by Labour.

Sir Basil believed there was a very real future for marine and freshwater fish

farming, and freshwater crayfish, in particular, should become a commercial reality.

Labour would move to reduce the time taken to obtain a marine farming licence.

Government Policy Criticized

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 18 May 81 p 14

[Text]

The shadow minister for primary industries, Sir Basil Arthur, believes inshore fishermen are the first victims of the Government's "think big" policies.

He told the Federation of Commercial Fishermen's conference in Auckland yesterday that Government policies which allowed the importation of big fishing boats and let them fish inshore waters had caused problems.

The livelihoods of many small fishermen had been threatened and others had been put out of work.

They were the first victims of the "think big" policy.

We (the Labour Party) believe that the front-line industries — those, like fisheries, which earn overseas funds and provide work — should be given the chance and the resources they need to generate the production the economy so urgently requires," he said.

Hampered

Sound management was needed to conserve and enhance both the resource and the industry.

The industry is faced with a whole raft of problems and we are seeing several sectors being actually hampered by the Government.

Sir Basil accused the Government of standing aside inshore waters were being over-fished.

"I challenge the Government to test this onshore industry if it is taking so long to

introduce a compensation scheme to ensure that the muscle of the big companies does not force smaller efforts on to the scrapheap," he said.

Joint Ventures

The Government had fiddled for ages while deciding what level of export incentives should be given to the industry and fisheries research was being hampered by the sinking lid policy. Meanwhile, the country's knowledge of the resource remained mainly limited to experience.

Sir Basil said the Government had spoken of increased New Zealand participation in joint ventures but he knew of only one venture with a significant number of New Zealanders.

The Labour Party believed that the Government had a responsibility to encourage New Zealand industries to develop in a co-ordinated and balanced fashion, to ensure that smaller efforts were not swamped by those which were bigger and more powerful and to provide a climate to regain full employment and increase export earnings.

Sir Basil said that was why Labour would make the fishing industry a front-line industry.

Speaking earlier in the conference, the Minister of Fisheries, Mr MacIntyre, said the Ministry would have no option but to impose more management controls on fishing if the industry did not conserve the resource.

Tough Measures Called For

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 29 May 81 p 3

[Fax] The New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen has called for the removal of about 90 Japanese tuna long-liners from New Zealand waters until local fishermen are promised full access to Japanese tuna markets.

The move is just one of a number of tough measures the federation wants the Government to adopt against foreign fishing boats.

Russian trawlers, American superseiners and all foreign joint venture boats will be subject to severe bans if the federation gets its way.

Sales Veto

At its Auckland conference yesterday the federation also called for:

- A total ban on all foreign licensed and joint fishing inside a 300 metre depth of water where that depth extends beyond the 12-mile territorial limit.

- A firm stand against Russian fishing boats working New Zealand's 200-mile zone.

- No sales of joint venture-caught fish on the local market.

- A ban on all foreign joint venture and charter line fishing vessels in fishing areas F, G and B.

- No foreign joint venture or charter fishing vessels be allowed to take albacore tuna within the New Zealand zone.

The federation also expressed a vote of great concern at the decisions members and the management of the Fishing Industry Board have made.

Lucrative Tuna

Regarding the exclusion of Japanese blue fin tuna long-liners, this was put forward by West Coast fishermen largely because of fears that Japan is about to impose a ban on New Zealand exports.

The director of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Brian Cunningham, said there were no restrictions yet.

West Coast fishermen are just starting to develop blue fin tuna fishing and it promises to be highly lucrative.

Any moves to exclude the 90 or so Japanese long-liners could be a severe blow to the Japanese fishing industry and to Japanese consumers as the fish is an important item of the national diet.

A ban on Japanese albacore tuna fishing was called for by the federation out of fears that the Government would allow this recently discovered fishery to be exploited by Japan and not local fishermen.

The ban on all foreign long-lining in areas F and G was called for to conserve stocks of ling and other fish which local fishermen believed are being heavily depleted.

The long-line ban in area B was called for because Taiwan had not taken up an option to fish in the Far Northern waters around the east coast of the North Island.

Hard Currency

The federation has called for a firm stand against Russian fishing vessels because it is felt the large volume of Russian-caught fish now reaching the Australian market is eroding the profitability of New Zealand fishermen.

Tumaru delegates said it was well known that Russian vessels were not allowed to fish in most Pacific countries' 200-mile zones and their need to obtain hard currency had meant they were hampering some tra-

ditional New Zealand markets.

Tuna, coupled with other advantages such as cheaper labour, fuel and gear costs, made it hard for New Zealand to compete.

The call for a ban on the sales of joint venture fish in New Zealand was made because it was felt these fish sales eroded the business of local fishermen.

The ban on all foreign fishing in waters of 300 metres or less could severely restrict foreign trawling and American purse seining.

The move was called for to give more protection to New Zealand Continental shelf waters not encompassed by the 12-mile territorial limit where these foreign boats are mostly excluded.

In nearly every instance remits against foreign fishing boats were passed without a single dissenting vote.

Bigger Portion

The vote of "great concern" over fishing industry board decisions was interpreted by some impartial officials as an expression of the federation's frustrations on board policy and management issues concerning fish catching principally, and over the way a board levy has been apportioned between the federation and the New Zealand Share Fishermen's Association.

At present 60 per cent of the levy allocation goes to the federation and 40 per cent to the Share Fishermen's Association.

The federation claims it should have a bigger portion of funds because its

membership is greater.

The general manager of the Fishing Industry Board, Mr N. E. Jarman, said this was an issue he could not settle.

The federation also wants its fishing board representation increased from one to two.

The federation called for environmental safeguards to protect fishing from mining, both on the land and under the sea.

The federation adopted a remit from Whinanga fishermen who expressed concern over proposed mining on the Coromandel Peninsula.

BRIEFS

BELOW-QUOTA FISH CATCHES--Joint venture fishing vessels took 82,726 tonnes of fish during the year to March 31, while foreign licensed vessels caught another 45,332 tonnes, the Minister of Fisheries, Mr MacIntyre said. The bulk of the joint venture catch was made up of orange roughy and oreo dory and was caught in the areas to the east and south of the South Island, he said. Among the foreign licensed fleets, Japan had the largest catch at 29,537 tonnes, followed by the USSR with 15,178 tonnes and Korea with 617 tonnes. The catch figures for the foreign vessels showed that Japan had caught 38.9 percent of the total allocated to her vessels, the USSR 46.7 percent and Korea 36.5 percent, the minister said. Foreign catches of restricted species were also below the allocations with Japan catching 32.6 percent of its hoki quota, 22.4 percent of common warehou and 17.0 percent of silver warehou. All figures referred to finfish catches, Mr MacIntyre said. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 22 May 81 p 4]

POLISH RESEARCH SHIP--The Polish research vessel Professor Bogucki is at present conducting feasibility studies and researching fishing grounds around New Zealand, in preparation for a joint fishing venture. Its main target species are orange roughy, hoki, hake, ling and southern blue whiting. The Bogucki (named after a famous Polish ichthyologist) is owned by the Fisheries Institute of Poland. In New Zealand it is operated as a joint venture project between Rybex, a foreign trading enterprise, Dalmor, a Polish-based deep sea fishing company, and Hellaby Ltd, together with Mauri Bros and Thomson Ltd. of New Zealand. The joint venture fishing operations will start in March 1982, after the studies have been completed. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 20 May 81 p 11]

POLISH FISHING QUERIED--Local fishermen are puzzled that Polish fishing boats should be catching fish for other nations while Poland itself is short of food. An executive member of the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen, Mr Peter Stevens, said he could not understand why New Zealanders were being asked to give food to Poland while a large Polish deep-sea trawler was operating in New Zealand waters and selling its catch to Australia. The Polish boat was fishing against the wishes of most New Zealand fishermen, he said, and the New Zealand joint-venture partner enjoyed a privilege not extended to small fishermen. [Excerpt] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 29 May 81 p 9]

PHOSPHORITE SURVEY--The German research vessel Sonne is back in Wellington harbour after completing its joint West German-New Zealand survey of phosphorite deposits in the Chatham Rise. The survey covered more than 20,000 sq km of the large underwater platform that runs eastward from Banks Peninsula and extends over 160 km beyond the Chatham Islands. The survey was done in three 18 to 21-day missions. Cruise leader on the last of these, Dr Ulrich Von Rad, from West German's Federal Institute of Geosciences and Mineral Resources, described the whole exercise as "extremely successful." "We are very satisfied with the results," he said. Detailed studies had been made of four separate areas and 30 tonnes of phosphorite taken for fertiliser trials in New Zealand and in Germany, said Dr Von Rad. Asked if the survey had shown whether the phosphorite was able to be mined, Dr Von Rad replied that that was currently being assessed by several companies, including Fletcher Challenge. "They have to work out whether there is enough, whether it can be mined and how much it will cost. There are a number of economic as well as political questions to be answered," he said. [Excerpts] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 29 May 81 p 14]

CSO: 5200/9059

PLANS TO CLEAN UP EAST ASIAN SEAS

Colombo THE CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 4 Jun 81 p 8

[Article by Donatus de Silva]

[Text]

The East Asian Seas, one of the busiest waterways of the world sometimes called "a dirty international backwater lane" — because of its high degree of pollution — is in for a massive clean up.

At a meeting, which concluded in Manila recently, top government officials responsible for environmental issues, from the politically powerful Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — comprising Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines — launched a comprehensive action plan aimed at protecting and enhancing the marine environment of the East Asian Seas.

Commenting on the agreement, Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), said that it was "the beginning of a new era of co-operation among the states of the region to develop their common marine environment in an environmentally sound manner".

Because of its geographical and strategic location, the East Asian Seas have been described as "the

cross-road between two Oceans and two continents" and "the shortest natural non-peripheral sea route".

The archipelagoes form one of the main features of the East Asian waters. For instance, Indonesia and the Philippines together account for more than 20,000 islands.

This situation, coupled with limited stretches of water between the off-shore islands, underscores how an oil spill could easily affect the shores in a very short time.

Collision

Oil pollution — a major concern in the region — is mainly caused by the collision or grounding of tankers using waterways.

One of the serious tanker accidents that took place in the area was the grounding of the Japanese tanker "Showa Maru" in 1973, which spilt almost 7,000 tons of crude oil. Furthermore, tankers conveniently dump bilge wastes and washings into the sea.

Another major source of oil pollution is the activities involving exploration and exploitation

tion of off-shore and on-shore oil resources.

This is particularly true around the Indonesian waters. Spot checking on petroleum hydrocarbon levels in Indonesian waters by the countries institute for petroleum showed levels between 3 to 100 parts per million (ppm) with an average of 25 ppm.

The East Asian Seas are the main sewer for domestic, agricultural and industrial wastes. This is mainly due to the limited sewage treatment plants in most of the countries with the possible exception of Singapore.

Every day, about 350 tons of domestic wastes and 114 tons of solid wastes are emptied into the waters of the Manila Bay.

The marine environment is also threatened by the increasing use of pesticides that has accompanied a higher agricultural output.

According to data available from the Philippines, National Pollution Control Commission, 75 per cent of the samples collected from major rivers during a monitoring activity contained pestic-

des concentrations that exceeded the acceptable standard.

Unfortunately, very little information regarding pesticide residues in estuarine and coastal waters are available for other Southeast Asian countries.

Mangrove woodlands, sometimes called "tidal forests" thrive in the coastlines of the East Asian Seas. For man, these have traditionally served as sources of firewood and construction material.

With the increasing population in the coastal areas, the demand for using mangrove forests has increased. The forests are also being cleared for settlements and construction of fishponds and salt-terns.

In Singapore most of the mangroves are found on the northern part of the island fringing the southern shore of the Johore Straits.

There is hardly any mangrove left on the southern coast of the main island, and except for a few small patches and the mangroves found on the north-western shores of the main island are

practically all reclaimed or impounded.

Like mangroves, coral reefs are an important part of the marine environment. A wide variety of corals rim the waters of the East Asian seas. The commercial species of corals are harvested for construction, ornamental and decorative uses. Indiscriminate gathering of corals and blast fishing have had disastrous effects on coral reefs.

Fishing

Degradation of the marine environment, in turn, takes its toll on people, particularly those who live in the coastal areas. Toxic effluents entering the marine food chains endanger human health. Destruction of coral reefs and mangroves contribute towards reducing the fish catch.

Thailand's fishing industry — a sizeable foreign exchange earner — peaked at 1.33 million tons of fish landings in 1972. Total catches, especially those from the inner zone of the Gulf of Thailand, have since declined.

To deal with this item the action plan

adopted in Manila, first of all, calls for an assessment of the effects of man's activities, such as the degradation of coral reefs and mangrove forests, on the marine environment through studies and research program. It also calls for the creation of a regional data exchange system on marine pollution.

On oil pollution control, the action plan suggests the development of a training program for preventing and combating oil spills. Joint investigations aimed at curbing operational pollution from ships are proposed.

Special attention will be given to managing domestic industrial and agricultural wastes through developing and applying principles and guidelines for discharging wastes into the coastal waters. Research will be carried out to find suitable ways of dealing with hazardous wastes.

Activities concerning marine pollution include the setting up of program for safeguarding endangered species and the establishment of marine reserves to protect degraded coastal areas.

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON FISHING PROBLEMS INAUGURATED

Victoria NATION in French 12 May 81 p 2

[Text] Minister for Education and Information James Michel inaugurated the sessions of a seminar on the problems of fishing and aquicultural environment and planning in the Comoro, Mascarene and Seychelles islands yesterday morning.

Minister of State in the President's Office for Agriculture Karl St. Ange and high officials in the agriculture department were present at the opening ceremony.

The seminar, in which some 20 representatives of countries in the region or experts are participating, will continue until next Saturday at the Reef Hotel. The seminar was organized by the Cultural and Technical Cooperation Agency (ACCT) in collaboration with the Regional Development and Environment Institute (IARE), an international body.

In the course of his address, Minister Michel stressed the need to mobilize the resources of the sea, which are not inexhaustible, to serve the national development goals of the various countries.

Emphasizing that the problem of developing fishing is linked with the rational management and protection of the economic zone, the minister pointed out that only national control can guarantee resource management such as to maintain stocks or to reestablish them, in view of the overexploitation by the developed countries accompanied by the exhaustion of resources, and often, negative effects on the environmental balance as well.

Referring to the measures undertaken in this sector since the liberation of the country, Minister Michel explained that the means put to use will increase, and he made an appeal for regional cooperation in multiple forms in the interests of the countries and the peoples of the region.

The seminar was arranged thanks to the IARE missions sent to the Seychelles, the Comoros, Mauritius and Reunion in 1980 with a view to studying the work to be undertaken for the development of the coastal resources and the aquicultural potential of our region.

Two missions in the course of the past year made it possible to survey the state of the exploitation of sweet and lagoon waters both in terms of fauna and the techniques used.

The purpose of this seminar is to obtain and compare the views of the participants on the programs in progress or to be undertaken cooperatively for the development of fishing and aquiculture and for the preservation of the coastal marine environments, and to undertake a joint study of the major aspects of the above themes in order to establish the nature and location of the campaigns which could be launched within a program of scientific and technical cooperation.

This seminar is basically a meeting bringing together high-level specialists. It should provide the four countries involved with additional information to enable them to decide on the timeliness of a program which could be implemented in a second phase with the support of international bodies.

5157

CSO: 5200/4958

FISHING AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE EXPLAINED

Victoria NATION in French 14 May 81 p 1

[Text] The Astove and the Aldabra, two tuna-fishing vessels which were scheduled to sail for France from the Seychelles Monday afternoon, have returned to the port of Victoria because of a technical failure on board the Aldabra.

Their departure, postponed until next week, is a result of an agreement signed in recent months between representatives of the governments of the Seychelles and France defining the cooperation between the two countries in the fishing sector for the future.

Two other vessels, the Assomption and the Alphonse, will follow the same route shortly.

The agreement, which was signed by Dr Maxime Ferrari, minister for planning and development, on behalf of our country, and Mr Christian Joudiou, director of economic development at the French Ministry of Cooperation, was based on the inconclusive results of the type of fishing (with rods) for which these tuna boats were equipped.

Research

The discussions between the two representatives led to the decision, in the light of these results, to return the tuna boats and to pursue research in the fishing sector. A tuna seiner (light fishing) of the same type as the Ile de Sein, which produces fruitful results, is expected to arrive, while the research operations will be continued.

5157

CSO: 5200/4958

ICELAND DISPUTES WITH EEC OVER GREENLAND WATERS QUOTAS

Reykjavik NEWS FROM ICELAND in English Jun 81 pp 1-2

[Text]

There are mounting worries here over the deadlock in talks between Iceland and the European Economic Community (EEC) on fisheries regulation off E-Greenland. The key issues are pressure from the EEC for access to Icelandic waters and the body's opposition to unilateral Icelandic decisions on TAC (total allowable catch) quotas involving a capelin stock that ranges in a huge area, from Jan Mayen to Greenland.

These questions and related ones were debated by Icelandic and EEC representatives at three meetings in 1980; a fourth took place in Brussels at the end of last April, but progress has been minimal thus far. A Reykjavik conference of fisheries experts from both sides was planned for the end of May or June, with follow-up talks by officials expected in July.

A draft accord assumes that Icelandic and EEC fisheries planners will be jointly responsible for protection of stocks that migrate across the median line between Greenland and Iceland, or are believed to be linked in other ways — while Denmark is to watch over Greenlandic interests in relevant EEC policy making. By contrast, no tentative provisions have emerged on how fisheries off E-Greenland are to be regulated.

Will Greenland Make Independent Moves?

Iceland is calling for reduced exploitation of cod, redfish, immature capelin, and shrimp in the cited waters. While that stance is based on the findings of marine biologists here, their assessments have gone unheeded in recent EEC decisions on effort levels off E-Greenland. Icelandic experts hold, for instance, that the newly authorized EEC take of redfish in the area notably exceeds the tolerance of the stock.

They also maintain that cod is being overfished off E-Greenland, and that shrimp grounds just northwest of the median line — in which Iceland claims a stake — are threatened by fast-growing inroads on the part of operators based in distant countries. But the most immediate concern here is over what may happen to westbound migrations from a dwindling Icelandic capelin stock.

The fears mentioned above are shared by political leaders in Greenland, which won home rule from Denmark a couple of years ago. They complain of Danish acquiescence in EEC demands, and especially West German ones, for unrestrained access to fisheries resources belonging to the world's largest island. There is even a possibility that Greenland might move to sever its ties

to the EEC two years hence.

Immature Stock Needs Protection

The capelin migrations from Iceland into Greenland's 200-mile jurisdiction, during the summer and early autumn, contain a high proportion of young fish that are the focus of the present worries in this country. The immature year-stock that may be decimated off E-Greenland in coming months — that is, if EEC capelin vessels make an onslaught on the run — urgently needs protection, according to Icelandic experts.

It is difficult to refute that contention. Icelandic landings from the once-abundant pelagic stock reached 1,191,000 tons in the 1978-79 season — while the capelin take in the following effort period had to be slashed by nearly one-third. A year ago, Iceland and Norway reached an accord on capelin fishing around Jan Mayen, an arctic island some 300 miles northeast of this country.

The formula worked out at that time gave Iceland right to harvest 650,000 tons of capelin in the 1980-81 season. But late last year, alarming new findings on the stock dictated a sharp cut-back from the envisaged effort level. The fundamental viewpoints in the Iceland-EEC dispute over fisheries off E-Greenland are outlined below.

Spawning in Icelandic Waters

The general Icelandic position rules out any fisheries concessions to the EEC inside this country's resources jurisdiction. But a relaxation of this stance is conceivable where the boundary line between Iceland and Greenland, as in the case of shrimp, divides a normal habitat of a given stock in which both parties have a justifiable stake.

The EEC refuses to accept any TAC capelin quota set unilaterally by Iceland. That is to say, the EEC is unwilling to enter the 1980 Norway-Iceland agreement on fishing from the stock — a deal specifically turning on waters surrounding Jan Mayen.

Iceland considers the capelin stock ranging between Jan Mayen and Greenland to be largely its own. Conceded up to a

point by Norway, this claim hinges on the fact that the spawning migrations are to grounds near this country. Iceland is not a party to any accord giving the EEC a capelin share within the region in question.

Icelandic overtures on a certain tradeoff — port services here for EEC vessels working waters off Greenland (even landings) — have fallen on deaf ears. The EEC dismisses such an exchange as an insufficient justification for a greater Icelandic say in fisheries control north-east of the boundary line.

The EEC shows no inclination to approach the issue through a new interpretation of Belgium's limited quota in Icelandic waters, seeing the continuation of that bilateral agreement as a fair tradeoff for some accommodation acceptable to this country, either TAC-sharing formulas or possibly Icelandic fishing off Greenland.

There are additional angles to the discord between Iceland and the EEC—for instance, with regard to uniform conservation policies. While the Icelandic position on that broad question has been presented in the several rounds of talks, the EEC thinking thus far remains notably different. Specifically, Icelandic representatives have urged that this country's measures for protecting young fish be adopted for the entire region; the formula, which has worked well here, includes temporary bans on effort where concentrations of small fry are observed, permanent protection of important nursery grounds, and mesh-size of no less than 155 mm. in trawls.

According to the Icelandic view, the first priority is to negotiate overall TAC quotas for stocks sharing the boundary waters—and then to work out a fair division of the harvests. In the second context, it has been pointed out by Icelandic delegates that fishermen from this country found most of the best grounds off E-Greenland, where exploitation first began in earnest during the 1950s. The shrimp beds straddled by the median line were the latest discovery of this kind, in 1978.

Many analysts here believe that the odds now are against a long-term fisheries accord between Iceland and the EEC, but that a provisional settlement is a distinct possibility. As for the more distant future, a 1983 referendum in Greenland on the EEC membership is certain to be a critical determinant.

ICELAND COAST GUARD FORCES BELGIAN TRAWLERS FROM WATERS

Reykjavik NEWS FROM ICELAND in English Jun 81 p 5

[Text] There has been persistent rumours that Belgian operators were breaching the terms of an accord that gave them a 5,000-ton groundfish quota, including 750 tons of cod, in Icelandic waters. When incontrovertible proof of this was on hand late last month, Minister of Fisheries Steingrimur Hermannsson wasted no time in taking stern countermeasures.

He ordered an immediate halt to all Belgian fishing inside this country's jurisdiction, while simultaneously initiating moves to review the bilateral agreement.

"The catches reported to us by the Belgian skippers," said Hermannsson, "simply don't tally with what they are known to have landed in British ports." He added that the violations showed the need for closer watching of foreign fishing in waters of foreign fishing in waters surrounding Iceland, and that ways of more effective enforcement would be sought.

For several years, the only foreign groundfish operations allowed by Iceland have entailed limited quotas for the Faroes, Belgium and Norway--in all 24 thousand tons annually. In their present form, these deals date from 1979, and each of them can be voided on six months' notice. The lion's share of the cited total--17 thousand tons--is for the Faroes. No serious breaches of these agreements had come to light until last month.

According to Reykjavik press stories appearing toward the end of May, cod landings by the Belgian trawlers in Britain alone, since January 1, totalled some 880 tons, or 130 tons more than their assigned take of this valuable species in all of 1981. Their sales of cod elsewhere remained a mystery.

It was also reported here that when the Belgian skippers had notified the Icelandic Coast Guard of cod catches adding up to 380 tons or so, their known sales of such fish were about 600 tons. There was also evidence that the proportion of cod in one of the landings was 90%--a far cry from the 15% per trip that is permitted.

DUTCH SHIPS ILLEGALLY FISH IN FRG'S NORTH SEA ZONE

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 22 May 81 p 9

[Text] Buesum, 21 May--Sole, one of the flat fish species (Pleuronectay) was already mentioned in the 1886 edition of the Brockhaus encyclopedia as providing excellent meat. Like its relative the flounder, it spends most of its life lying in the silt or sand of the ocean floor, where it manages to hide. That is unless "fish pirates from the Netherlands" come and scoop up the flat creatures with their illegal nets. Such was, in any case, the statement made on Thursday by Heinrich Hoffmeister, manager of the Land Fishery Office of Schleswig-Holstein. He made this statement in anger, because with the "kidnapping" of two German fishery supervisors by Dutch fishermen the "sole war," as it is jokingly called along the coast, that has been going for several weeks has now reached a climax. At one time, shots were even fired. And in the background of all these events are extensive material interests and also environmental protection problems.

The Dutch fishing trawler "Limanda," 233 GRT in weight and equipped with 1,500 hp engine, had cast its nets inside the 12-mile zone west of Buesum, a practice forbidden for ships of this size. The German fishery protection ship "Greif" approached the trawler and raising the flag signal L signaled to the "Limanda" to stop fishing. The Dutch, however, went to full throttle and tried to escape. After a chase of several miles, "Greif" managed to come alongside "Limanda" and two officials jumped aboard the trawler while the sea was calm. "Limanda's" captain, however, was not impressed; he did not admit the officers to the bridge. His six-men crew assisted him in his efforts; in what exact form will probably be clarified in court.

Eventually, nine ships--from the customs services, fishery supervision office, harbor police, and even one research vessel--participated in the chase which ended 7 hours later 16 nautical miles west of Helgoland. Two policemen went aboard the Dutch trawler and there subdued the captain after "a hefty altercation," as was reported. Since Wednesday evening, the "Limanda" has been lying at anchor in the harbor of Buesum watched by a police boat. The captain is not permitted to leave his ship.

The biological cause of this "war" is the fact that in April and May the sole swim up to the coast in order to lay eggs in the shallow waters. Because this species of fish is under protection, the fishing of sole is not allowed within a 3-mile zone along the coastline; in the area between 3 and 12 miles, however, cutters are permitted to catch the rare fish, but only if their weight does not exceed 70 GRT

and their engines are no stronger than 300 hp. Any ship from a Common Market country can cast its nets as long as it meets these conditions.

Heinrich Hoffmeister talks about an "invasion of law breakers" that happens every year at this time: "The Dutch come in ships that are too big and have engines that are too strong. Their strong engines enable them to use nets that can be operated only with the help of extremely powerful winches. This equipment is weighed down by steel runners and iron chains weighing several tons which rake up the ocean floor and frighten the sole from their position--the fish are then caught by regular trawler nets. Other fishermen on ships with less powerful engines can only use their trawler nets, which do not "plow up" the ocean floor. Hoffmeister explains: "The Dutch fishing methods destroy the entire flora and fauna on the ocean floor."

The reason for the aggressiveness of the unwanted fishermen from the neighboring country is thought by the chief of the Land Fishery Office to be the fact that the Dutch can dominate the flat fish market in Belgium and France, and make great profits there. "Common sole" (Brockhaus), he says, belongs to the standard fare of any better restaurant in these countries, where it is served as "sole meuniere" or "rolled sole in wine sauce."

In past years there had already been trouble because of the Dutch "intruders." In the current sole season, German authorities have first of all used a considerably larger number of fishery supervision boats in order to put an end to the "fish stealing along the coast of other countries," as Hoffmeister put it. The number of incidents rose in proportion. In all three cutters were stopped and boarded. Because several captains were allegedly suffering from "language difficulties" and therefore did not react to instructions, Hoffmeister said that in several cases it had to be made clear that the supervision boats were armed. By this he meant that shots were fired across the bow of a Dutch boat trying to escape.

As a rule, however, the pursued ships got away because of their strong engines. On the basis of complaints from Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony, Bonn has intervened a number of times in the past. Dutch officials had then punished the "offenders" with fines, as rumors in Kiel had it, but these measures had "insufficient effect."

Many Dutchmen would rather pay the fine (not in excess of DM 10,000) which is due after a ship has been towed into port by German authorities, than do without the profitable sole catch. The captain of the "Limanda," however, is threatened with considerably larger losses. His catch (1,000 kg of sole valued at approximately DM 12,000) is likely to be confiscated, and likewise his equipment (valued at approximately DM 50,000). He will also have to count on facing court action, where he will be charged with the using force, resisting authority and kidnapping.

8889

CSO: 5200/2090

BRIEFS

MARINE INSTITUTE FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS--In a set of new guidelines issued recently, the Marine Research Institute in Reykjavik urged that the ceilings on catches from a number of important fish stocks--especially herring, redfish and Greenland halibut--be lowered notably from the landing figures for last year. The recommended total catches of these species are, respectively, 40,000 metric tons (vs 54,000), 65,000 tons (vs 80,000) and 15,000 tons (vs 27,800). By contrast, the fishery experts believe that it is safe to increase the exploitation of some other stocks: plaice, ocean catfish (wolffish), Norway lobster and scallops. Pronouncements on the cod and capelin efforts were not included in the package. Iceland's 1980 harvest of cod was around 410,000 tons, an all-time record and far beyond what marine biologists had advised--and this despite the greatest effort controls ever. Months ago, the Ministry of Fisheries gave the green light for a 1981 cod take of some 400,000 tons, while stressing its determination to hold the line there. Icelandic and Norwegian fisheries planners agree that the take of capelin in the 1981-82 season, from waters surrounding this country and the arctic island of Jan Mayen, should not exceed 700,000 tons, of which Icelandic operators are to get 617,000 tons. But there will be a review of this quota later this year, based on new findings from research expeditions. [Text] [Reykjavik NEWS FROM ICELAND in English Jun 81 p 6]

CAPELIN DATA REPORTED--According to a report from a commission overseeing Iceland's capelin fishery, no fewer than nine separate regulations affecting this effort were issued last year. As is well known, these stringent controls were dictated by the poor condition of the stock. The final figure on the overall take in 1980 is just under 760,000 tons--vs some 963,000 tons in 1979 and somewhat more than that in 1978. Last year's catch record--26,858 tons--for capelin went to Sigurdur (RE-4), a large Reykjavik vessel designed for seine operations. [Text] [Reykjavik NEWS FROM ICELAND in English Jun 81 p 6]

MINKE WHALE QUOTA--Icelandic authorities gave the green light for a kill of 200 minke whales during the coming months--a take similar to what has been allowed each summer over the past few years. This time, the hunting licences went to nine small boats--ranging in size from 15 to 30 tons--which will operate out of different ports spread from the Northwest to the Northeast. Some of the whale meat (which tastes rather like tough beef) will be sold domestically; the remainder is to be shipped to Japan. The effort is distinct from that of the whaling station in Hvalfjordur, some distance north of Reykjavik. That facility has existed since 1948. It is a base for four boats that are active only during the summer, under strict government supervision and in compliance with guidelines of the International Whaling Commission. [Text] [Reykjavik NEWS FROM ICELAND in English Jun 81 p 6]

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